

**BEFORE THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOR THE CEMETERY AND FUNERAL BUREAU
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Case No.: A1 2018 126

In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition to
Revoke Probation Against:

**DAMBACHER MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL,
INC.
22394 Lyons Bald Mountain Road
Sonora, CA 95370**

**Certificate of Authority License No. COA
602,**

And

**JAMES B. SELLS
225 E. Rose Avenue
Sonora, CA 95370**

Cemetery Manager License No. CEM 116

Respondents.

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Director of Consumer Affairs and the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau as the Decision and Order in the above entitled matter as to respondent James B. Sells only.

This Decision shall become effective on April 10, 2019.

It is so ORDERED March 11, 2019.



RYAN MARCROFT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 DAVID E. BRICE
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8
9 **BEFORE THE**
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10 **FOR THE CEMETERY AND FUNERAL BUREAU**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
12

13 In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition to Revoke
14 Probation Against:

Case No. A1 2018 126

15 **DAMBACHER MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL,**
16 **INC.**
22394 Lyons Bald Mountain Road
Sonora, CA 95370

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER

(James B. Sells only)

17 **Certificate of Authority License No. COA 602,**

18 **and**

19 **JAMES B. SELLS**
20 **225 E. Rose Avenue**
21 **Sonora, CA 95370**

22 **Cemetery Manager License No. CEM 116**

23 Respondents.

24 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
25 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

26 **PARTIES**

27 1. Lisa M. Moore (Complainant) was the Bureau Chief of the Cemetery and Funeral
28 Bureau (Bureau). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this

1 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Elena L. Almanzo,
2 Deputy Attorney General.

3 2. Respondent James B. Sells (Respondent Sells) is representing himself in this
4 proceeding and has chosen not to exercise its right to be represented by counsel.

5 3. On or about June 7, 2004, the Bureau issued Cemetery Manager License No. CEM
6 116 to Respondent Sells. The Cemetery Manager License was in full force and effect at all times
7 relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2019, unless renewed

8 JURISDICTION

9 4. Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. A1 2018 126 was filed before the
10 Bureau, and is currently pending against Respondent Sells. The Accusation/Petition to Revoke
11 Probation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on
12 September 17, 2018. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the
13 Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation.

14 5. A copy of Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. A1 2018 126 is attached as
15 exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

16 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

17 6. Respondent Sells has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in
18 Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. A1 2018 126. Respondent Sells has also carefully
19 read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

20 7. Respondent Sells is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to
21 a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation; the right
22 to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the
23 witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to
24 the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of
25 documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other
26 rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

27 8. Respondent Sells voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each
28 and every right set forth above.

1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent Sells admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in
3 Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. A1 2018 126.

4 10. Respondent Sells agrees that his Cemetery Manager License is subject to discipline
5 and he agrees to be bound by the Director's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary
6 Order below.

7 CONTINGENCY

8 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Director of Consumer Affairs or
9 the Director's designee. Respondent Sells understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant
10 and the staff of the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau may communicate directly with the Director
11 and staff of the Department of Consumer Affairs regarding this stipulation and settlement,
12 without notice to or participation by Respondent Sells. By signing the stipulation, Respondent
13 Sells understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the
14 stipulation prior to the time the Director considers and acts upon it. If the Director fails to adopt
15 this stipulation as the Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall
16 be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action
17 between the parties, and the Director shall not be disqualified from further action by having
18 considered this matter.

19 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile
20 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile
21 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

22 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an
23 integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement.
24 It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions,
25 negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
26 Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a
27 writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
28

14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Director may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Cemetery Manager License No. CEM 116 issued to Respondent Sells is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent Sells is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall comply with all conditions of probation and obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules and regulations governing the programs regulated by the Bureau.

2. **Quarterly Reports.** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury, in a format designated by the Bureau, stating whether or not Respondent has been in compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall also submit such additional written reports and verifications of actions requested by the Bureau. Should the final probation report not be made as directed, the period of probation shall be extended until such time as the final report is made.

3. **Interview with Bureau Representative.** As necessary, Respondent shall appear in person for scheduled interviews with the Bureau Chief or other designated representative for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the terms of this decision.

4. **Out-of-State Residence or Operation.** Should Respondent leave California to reside or operate outside this state, Respondent must notify the Bureau in writing of the dates of departure and return. Reporting in person may be waived if the Respondent moves out of the state. However, Respondent shall continue compliance with other terms of probation to retain California licensure. Periods of residency, business operation or employment outside California shall not reduce the probationary period.

5. **Completion of Probation.** Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license will be fully restored.

6. **Violation of Probation.** Should Respondent violate probation in any respect, the

1 Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, after giving Respondent notice and an
2 opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order which was
3 stayed. If an Accusation or Petition to Revoke Probation is filed against Respondent during
4 probation, the Bureau shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the probation
5 shall be extended until the matter is final.

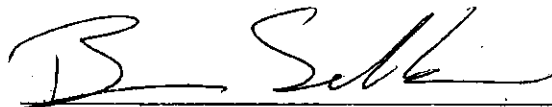
6 **7. License Issued During Probation.** Any license or registration issued to Respondent
7 by the Bureau during the period of probation shall be issued as a probationary license or
8 registration and is subject to all the terms and conditions set forth herein. Respondent must
9 comply with terms and conditions herein and demonstrate no cause for disciplinary action or
10 denial of an application.

11 **8. Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay the Bureau's actual and reasonable costs of
12 investigation and enforcement of this matter in the amount of \$1,000. Said amount shall be paid
13 within the first year of probation. Probation shall not terminate until full payment has been made.
14 Respondent's license shall not be renewed until the cost recovery has been paid in full or
15 Respondent is otherwise in compliance with a payment plan approved by the Bureau.

16
17 ACCEPTANCE

18 I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the
19 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Cemetery Manager License No. 116. I enter into this
20 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree
21 to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Director of Consumer Affairs.

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23 DATED: 11/31/2018


24 JAMES B. SELLS
Respondent

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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Director of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: 2/4/19

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
DAVID E. BRICE
Supervising Deputy Attorney General


ELENA L. ALMANZO
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. A1 2018 126

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7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8
9 **BEFORE THE**
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10 **FOR THE CEMETERY AND FUNERAL BUREAU**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to
Revoke Probation Against:

Case No. A1 2018 126

13 **ACCUSATION AND PETITION TO**
14 **REVOKE PROBATION**

14 **DAMBACHER MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL,**
INC.
15 **22394 Lyons Bald Mountain Road**
Sonora, CA 95370
16 **Certificate of Authority License No. COA 602**

17 **JAMES B. SELLS**
18 **225 E. Rose Avenue**
Sonora, CA 95370
19 **Cemetery Manager License No. CEM 116**

20 Respondents.

21
22 Complainant alleges:

23 **PARTIES**

24 1. Lisa M. Moore (Complainant) brings this Accusation and Petition to Revoke
25 Probation solely in her official capacity as the Bureau Chief of the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau,
26 hereinafter Bureau, Department of Consumer Affairs.

27 2. On or about April 7, 2006, the Bureau issued Certificate of Authority License No.
28 COA 602 to Dambacher Mountain Memorial, Inc. (Respondent Dambacher). The Certificate of

1 Authority License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein
2 and will expire on April 30, 2019, unless renewed.

3 3. On or about June 7, 2004, the Bureau issued Cemetery Manager License No. CEM
4 116 to James B. Sells (Respondent Sells). The Cemetery Manager License was in full force and
5 effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2019, unless
6 renewed

7 4. In Accusation No. A1 2014 130 a Decision and Order was issued effective October
8 19, 2015, in which Respondent Dambacher's Certificate of Authority License was revoked.
9 However, the revocation was stayed and Respondent Dambacher's Certificate of Authority
10 License was placed on probation for three (3) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of
11 that Decision and Order is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated by reference.

12 JURISDICTION AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS FOR ACCUSATION

13 5. This Accusation is brought before the Director of the Department of Consumer
14 Affairs (Director) for the Bureau, under the authority of the following laws. All section
15 references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

16 6. Section 7711.1 of the Code states:

17 Unprofessional conduct by any licensee or registrant or by any agent or employee of a
18 licensee or registrant constitutes grounds for disciplinary action. Unprofessional
conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

19 (a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting
20 the violation of this chapter and any regulation adopted thereunder, or of any federal
or state law or regulation governing the disposition of human remains, operation of
21 cemeteries or crematories, the sale of cemetery property, or the sale of crematory
services or commodities.

22 (b) Negligence in performing any act related to the operation of a cemetery or
23 crematory

24 7. Health and Safety Code section 8750 states:

25 Endowment care funds shall not be used for any purpose other than to provide
through income only for the reserves authorized by law and for the endowment care
26 of the cemetery in accordance with the resolutions, by-laws, rules and regulations or
other actions or instruments of the cemetery authority.

27 8. Health and Safety Code section 8726.1 provides:

28 (a) If a cemetery authority establishes an endowment care fund, the fund shall be

subject to a net income distribution method that requires all of the following:

- (1) The trustee of the endowment care fund shall create a reserve from which principal losses may be replaced by setting aside a reasonable percentage of the income from the fund.
- (2) The trustee may also set aside, out of income or net capital gains from investments, reserves for future maintenance, repair, replacement, or restoration of property or embellishments in the century that may be necessary or desirable as a result of wear, deterioration, accident, damage or destruction.
- (3) The total amount of these reserves for maintenance, repair, and restoration shall not at any time exceed 10 percent of the endowment care fund.
- (4) As used in this section, "net capital gains" means the amount by which cumulative realized capital gains since the establishment of the endowment care fund exceed the sum of cumulative realized capital losses since the establishment of the endowment care fund and capital gains previously set aside in reserve,
- (5) Additions to the reserve in any year from net capital gains shall not exceed one-half the difference between the capital gains and the capital losses during the year.
- (6) Net capital gains not set aside in reserve in any given year shall become a part of the principal of the endowment care fund.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a cemetery authority may convert its endowment care fund from a net income distribution method to a unitrust distribution method if it obtains prior approval from the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau pursuant to Section 8726.2.

BACKGROUND

9. On or about May 25, 2016, Respondent Dambacher filed its 2015 Endowment Care Fund and Special Care Fund Report. On or about June 1, 2017, Respondent Dambacher filed its 2016 Endowment Care Fund and Special Care Fund. The Reports were filed in compliance with Business and Professions Code section 7612.6 and 7612.7. The Bureau's auditor reviewed the 2015 and 2016 reports and determined that at year-end 2016, the Endowment Care Fund principal had a net capital loss of \$29,400. On or about December 18, 2017, the Bureau notified Respondents Dambacher and Sells of the loss and requested that the deficiency be corrected by depositing the money or providing a timeline for repayment by January 31, 2018. To date, Respondents have failed to comply with the Bureau's request.

1
2 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**
3 **(Unprofessional Conduct- Endowment Care Fund Loss.)**

4 10. Respondents Dambacher and Sells are subject to discipline pursuant to Code
5 section 7711.1 in conjunction with Health and Safety Code sections 8750 and 8726.1 in that the
6 Endowment Care fund for Dambacher Mountain Memorial, Inc. had a loss of \$29,400 as set forth
7 above in paragraph 9.

8 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**
9 **(Unprofessional Conduct- Failure to Report to Bureau.)**

10 11. Respondents Dambacher and Sells are subject to discipline pursuant to Code section
11 7711.1 in conjunction with Health and Safety Code sections 8750 and 8726.1 in that they failed to
12 respond to the Bureau following their notification of the loss of funds and request for repayment.

13 **JURISDICTION FOR PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION**

14 12. This Petition to Revoke Probation is brought before the Director under Probation
15 Term and Condition Number 6 of the Decision and Order for Accusation No. A1 2014 130. That
16 term and condition states:

17 "Should respondent violate probation in any respect, the chief of the Bureau, after
18 giving respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and
19 carry out the disciplinary order which was stayed. If an accusation or petition to
20 revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Bureau shall have
21 continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the probation shall be extended
22 until the matter is final."

23 **FIRST CAUSE OF VIOLATION OF PROBATION**
24 **(Obey all Laws)**

25 13. Respondent Dambacher is subject to a violation of probation under Probation Term
26 and Condition Number 1 of the Decision and Order for Accusation No. A1 2014 130. That term
27 and condition states:

28 "Respondent shall comply with all conditions of probation and obey all federal, state
and local laws, and all rules and regulations governing the programs regulated by the

Bureau.”

14. Grounds exist for a violation of probation in that Respondent Dambacher failed to obey all laws in that they had a loss of principle in the Endowment Care Fund in the amount of \$29,400, as set forth above in paragraph 9.

SECOND CAUSE OF VIOLATION OF PROBATION
(Quarterly Reports)

15. Respondent is subject to a violation of probation under Probation Term and Condition Number 2 of the Decision and Order for Accusation No. A1 2014 130. That term and condition states:

“Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury, in a format designated by the Bureau, stating whether or not respondent has been in compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall also submit such additional written reports and verifications of actions requested by the Bureau. Should the final probation report not be made as directed, the period of probation shall be extended until such time as the final report is made.”

16. Grounds exist for a violation of probation in that Respondent Dambacher failed to submit quarterly reports in a timely manner as required in that their April 2018 quarterly report was late and they failed to submit a July 2018 quarterly report. The July 2018 quarterly report was due on July 19, 2018.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters alleged in this Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation, and that following the hearing, the Director of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Bureau in Case No. A1 2014 130 and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking Certificate of Authority License No. COA 602 issued to Dambacher Mountain Memorial, Inc.;

2. Revoking or suspending Cemetery Manager License No. CEM 116 issued to James B. Sells;

1 3. Ordering Respondent Dambacher and Respondent Sells to pay the Director of
2 Consumer Affairs the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant
3 to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and

4 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
5
6
7

8 DATED: _____

9/7/18

Lisa M. Moore

LISA M. MOORE
Bureau Chief
Cemetery and Funeral Bureau
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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Exhibit A

Decision and Order

Cemetery and Funeral Bureau Case No. A1 2914 130

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOR THE CEMETERY AND FUNERAL BUREAU
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Dambacher Mountain Memorial, Inc.
Certificate of Authority No. COA 602;

Jeffrey R. Willson
Cemetery Manager No. CEM 206,

Respondent.

Case No. A1 2014 130

OAH No. 2015 060149

CERTIFIED COPY

The document to which this seal is affixed, consisting of 19 pages, is certified to be a true and correct copy of the original document(s) or copies on file in the records of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Cemetery and Funeral Bureau.

Dated 6/14/15

Signature [Signature]

DECISION

The attached Proposed Decision of the Administrative Law Judge is hereby accepted and adopted by the Director of Consumer Affairs as the Decision in the above-entitled matter, except that, pursuant to Government Code section 11517(c)(2)(C), the following technical error is corrected:

On page 4 of the LEGAL CONCLUSIONS, the following sentences:

3. Unprofessional conduct by any licensee of the Bureau or by any agent or employee of a licensee constitutes grounds for disciplinary action. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: "[v]iolating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly... any federal or state law or regulation governing the...operation of cemeteries..." Bus. & Prof. Code §9725.1, subd.(b).)

are corrected to read as follows:

3. Unprofessional conduct by any licensee of the Bureau or by any agent or employee of a licensee constitutes grounds for disciplinary action. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: "[v]iolating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly... any federal or state law or regulation governing the...operation of cemeteries..." Bus. & Prof. Code §9725.1, subd.(a).)

This Decision shall become effective 19th October 2015

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th day of September, 2015.

[Signature]
DOREATHEA JOHNSON
Deputy Director, Legal Affairs
Department of Consumer Affairs

BEFORE THE
CEMETERY AND FUNERAL BUREAU
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

DAMBACHER MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL,
INC.

Certificate of Authority No. COA 602;

JEFFREY RICHARD WILSON

Cemetery Manager No. CEM 206,

Respondents.

Case No. A1 2014 130

OAH No. 2015060149

PROPOSED DECISION

This matter was heard before Timothy J. Aspinwall, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, State of California, on August 21, 2015, in Sacramento, California.

Complainant Lisa M. Mobre, Chief of the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau (Bureau), was represented by Elena L. Almanzo, Deputy Attorney General.

Respondent Dambacher Mountain Memorial, Inc. (Dambacher) was represented by James R. Dambacher, President/Treasurer.

Respondent Jeffrey R. Wilson (Wilson) was present throughout the hearing, and represented himself.

Evidence was received, the record was closed, and the matter was submitted for decision on August 21, 2015.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

1. On April 7, 2006, the Bureau issued Certificate of Authority No. COA 602 to Dambacher. The Certificate of Authority expired on April 30, 2013, and renewal is on hold due to the nonpayment of fines.

2. On September 17, 2014, the Bureau issued Cemetery Manager No. CEM 206 to Wilson. The Cemetery Manager license will expire on September 30, 2015.

3. On September 26, 2014, complainant, solely in her official capacity, caused to be filed the Accusation in this matter seeking to discipline respondents based on their failure to comply with citations issued to Dambacher.

4. The Bureau issued four citations to Dambacher between November 18, 2011, and December 5, 2013. Three of the citations are essentially identical, except for the dates of noncompliance.

On November 18, 2011, the Bureau issued Citation No. IC 2011 217, alleging that Dambacher failed to file the annual 2010 Endowment Care Fund (ECF) and Special Care Fund (SCF) Reports for the year ending December 31, 2010. The citation included a fine in the amount of \$2,000, and an abatement order requiring that Dambacher file the reports and pay the fine. Dambacher did not appeal the citation and it became final. Dambacher paid the fine on an undetermined date prior to the issuance of the Accusation, but did not file the required reports until the hearing date in this matter.

On November 9, 2012, the Bureau issued Citation No. IC 2012 216, alleging that Dambacher failed to file the annual 2011 ECF and SCF Reports for the year ending December 31, 2011. The citation included a fine in the amount of \$2,000, and an abatement order requiring that Dambacher file the reports and pay the fine. Dambacher did not appeal the citation and it became final. Dambacher paid the fine prior to the issuance of the Accusation with a check dated May 6, 2013, but did not file the required reports until the hearing date in this matter.

On December 5, 2013, the Bureau issued Citation No. IC 2013 256, alleging that Dambacher failed to file the annual 2012 ECF and SCF Fund Reports for the year ending December 31, 2012. The citation included a fine in the amount of \$2,000, and an abatement order requiring that Dambacher file the reports and pay the fine. Dambacher did not appeal the citation and it became final. Dambacher did not pay the fine or file the required reports until the hearing date in this matter.

5. On October 24, 2013, the Bureau issued Citation No. IC 2013 210, alleging that Dambacher failed to deposit \$800 collected through sales contracts into the ECF and \$500 collected through sales contracts for pre-need funds into the SCF during the calendar years 2010 and 2011. The citation included a fine in the amount of \$1,000 and an abatement order requiring that Dambacher deposit the funds into the ECF and SCF. Dambacher did not

appeal the citation and it became final. Dambacher did not pay the \$1,000 fine until the hearing date in this matter.

On April 8, 2013, Dambacher prepared a check in the amount of \$1,800 for deposit in the Dambacher master trust fund, with notations on the memo line of the check indicating the intended disbursement of funds as follows: "2010 & 2011 Endowment \$800" and "2010 & 2011 Special Care Fund \$500". Dambacher made the check in response to an audit by the Bureau which identified the shortages in the ECF and SCF. Two days before the hearing in this matter a CPA retained by Dambacher informed Dambacher that the monies had not been distributed as indicated on the memo line. The day before the hearing in this matter Dambacher provided written instructions to the trust fund to transfer \$800 into the ECF and \$500 into the SCF.

Testimony of James Dambacher, President/Treasurer, Dambacher Mountain Memorial, Inc

6. Mr. Dambacher testified that an audit by a certified public accountant (CPA) necessary to file the required annual ECF and SCF Reports typically costs \$5,000 per year, and that this is unaffordable because the cemetery has been operating at a loss since it opened in 2006.

7. Mr. Dambacher testified that he now understands that he has an obligation to perform an annual audit, independent of any audit that may be performed by the Bureau, and that he will either have the audits done or close his business.

Testimony of Respondent Jeffrey R. Wilson

8. Wilson was not aware of all the notices and citations as they came in from the Bureau. Correspondence from the Bureau is sent to the cemetery address, and Wilson is located at the funeral home.

9. Wilson testified that he had been unsure whether an audit conducted by the Bureau served as a substitute for an audit by a CPA retained by Dambacher.

10. The cemetery has done less than 20 funerals per year, which makes it financially difficult for Dambacher to retain a CPA to conduct the required annual audits.

11. Wilson believes that Mr. Dambacher has learned his lesson, and will pay to have the annual audits done.

12. Wilson testified that it would help him to more effectively manage the business to have the business records kept at the business office of the funeral home rather than at Mr. Dambacher's home where they are currently kept.

Costs of Investigation and Enforcement

13. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3, complainant requested costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,780. In support of the request for costs, complainant submitted a Certified Statement of Costs signed by Elena L. Almanzo, Deputy Attorney General.

14. Mr. Dambacher and respondent Wilson testified to the effect that the business has been running at a financial loss.

15. The reasonableness of costs is addressed in Legal Conclusions 8 through 10, below.

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

1. A licensee of the Bureau may be disciplined for failure to pay a fine within 30 days of the date of assessment, unless the citation is under appeal. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 125.9, subd. (b)(5).)

2. Each cemetery authority licensed by the Bureau shall file with the Bureau an annual endowment care fund report on or before June 1, or within five months after close of their fiscal year provided approval has been granted by the Bureau, including the following: (1) the number of square feet of grave space and the number of crypts and niches sold or disposed of under endowment care; (2) the amount of money collected and deposited in both the general and special endowment care funds segregated as to the amounts for crypts, niches and grave space; (3) the total amount of general and special endowment care funds invested in each of the investments authorized by law and the amount of cash on hand not invested; (4) the location, description, and character of the investments in which the special endowment care funds are invested; (5) the transactions entered into between the corporation or any officer, employee or stockholder and the trustees of the endowment care funds with respect to those endowment care funds. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 9650, subd. (a).)

The annual ECF report must be verified by the president or vice president and one other officer of the cemetery corporation, and shall be accompanied by an annual audit report of the ECF and SCF fund signed by a CPA or public accountant. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 9650, subd. (b).)

3. Unprofessional conduct by any licensee of the Bureau or by any agent or employee of a licensee constitutes grounds for disciplinary action. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: "[v]iolating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly . . . any federal or state law or regulation governing the . . . operation of cemeteries . . ." (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 9725.1, subd. (b).)

4. A licensed cemetery is required to at all times employ a cemetery manager to supervise and direct its operations. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 9723.) The cemetery manager shall be responsible for direct supervision and control over the cemetery operations as necessary to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 9723, subd. (b).)

5. Cause exists to discipline respondent Dambacher's Certificate of Authority based on Factual Findings 4 through 7, and Legal Conclusions 1 through 3.

6. Cause exists to discipline respondent Wilson's Cemetery Manager License based on Factual Findings 4, and 8 through 12; and Legal Conclusions 2 through 4.

7. No cause exists to discipline either respondent under Business and Professions Code section 9727, subdivision (c), which provides that the Bureau may discipline a licensee who has "[w]illfully disregarded or violated any provisions of this act relating to cemetery brokerage." There is no evidence of wrongdoing relating to cemetery brokerage as governed by Business and Professions Code section 9675, et seq.

8. In determining the appropriate discipline, the central question is what level of discipline is necessary to protect the public. Based upon all of the circumstances set forth in Factual Findings 4 through 12, public protection will be ensured by imposing terms and conditions of probation on respondent Dambacher's Certificate of Authority and Wilson's Cemetery Manager license.

Costs of Investigation and Enforcement

9. Business and Professions Code section 125.3 permits the Bureau to request an administrative law judge hearing a disciplinary matter to direct a licensee to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of investigation and enforcement of the case, except as otherwise provided by the law. Complainant provided sufficient evidence to support an award of the costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,780.

10. The costs of investigation and enforcement must also be evaluated for reasonableness against the standards enunciated in *Zuokerman v. Board of Chiropractic Examiners* (2002) 29 Cal.4th 32, 45. *Zuokerman* requires the consideration of the following factors in determining the amount of costs to be assessed: (a) whether the respondents have used the hearing process to obtain dismissal of some of the charges or a reduction in the severity of the discipline imposed; (b) the respondents' subjective good faith belief in the merits of their respective positions; (c) whether the respondents have raised a colorable challenge to the proposed discipline; (d) whether the respondents will be financially able to make later payments; and (e) whether the Bureau has conducted a disproportionately large investigation.

11. Taking into account the factors required by *Zuokerman*, the costs of enforcement and prosecution in the amount of \$2,780 are reasonable.

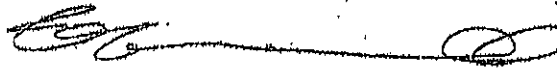
ORDER

Certificate of Authority license number COA 602 issued to Dambacher Mountain Memorial, Inc., and Cemetery manager license number CEM 206 issued to respondent Jeffrey R. Wilson are revoked; provided, however, the revocations are stayed and respondents are individually placed on probation for three (3) years, subject to the following terms and conditions applicable to each individual respondent:

1. Obey All Laws: Respondent shall comply with all conditions of probation and obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules and regulations governing the programs regulated by the Bureau.
2. Quarterly Reports: Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury, in a format designated by the Bureau, stating whether or not respondent has been in compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall also submit such additional written reports and verifications of actions requested by the Bureau. Should the final probation report not be made as directed, the period of probation shall be extended until such time as the final report is made.
3. Interview with Bureau Representative: As necessary, respondent shall appear in person for scheduled interviews with the director or other designated representative for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the terms of this Decision.
4. Out - of - State Residence or Operation: Should respondent leave California to reside or operate outside this state, respondent must notify the Bureau in writing of the dates of departure and return. Reporting in person may be waived if the respondent moves out of the state. However, respondent shall continue compliance with other terms of probation to retain California licensure. Periods of residency, business operation or employment outside California shall not reduce the probationary period.
5. Completion of Probation: Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's license will be fully restored.
6. Violation of Probation: Should respondent violate probation in any respect, the chief of the Bureau, after giving respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order which was stayed. If an Accusation or Petition to Revoke Probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Bureau shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
7. License Issued During Probation: Any license or registration issued to respondent by Bureau during the period of probation shall be issued as a probationary license or registration and is subject to all the terms and conditions set forth herein. Respondent must comply with terms and conditions herein and demonstrate no cause for disciplinary action or denial of an application.

8. Cost Recovery: Respondents Dambacher and Wilson are jointly and severally liable to pay the Bureau for all reasonable costs of investigation and enforcement of this matter in the amount of \$2,780. Said amount shall be paid within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision, or according to a payment plan approved by the Bureau. Probation shall not terminate until full payment has been made. Respondents' respective licenses shall not be renewed until the cost recovery has been paid in full or respondents are otherwise in compliance with a payment plan approved by the Bureau.

Dated: September 14, 2015



TIMOTHY J. ASPINWALL
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings